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SECURITY INFORMATION

NSC BRIEFING

10 December 1953

BACKGROUND
BIOGRAPHIC DATA

D. F. ZHIGAREV

New Rank: Marshal of Aviation.

Position: Probably Deputy Minister for
Aviation.

When Identified as Promoted: July 1953.

Born in 1900, Zhigarev has held high commands in the Soviet Air Force since 1936. He has been described by German Intelligence Sources in 1943 as one of the most capable generals in Soviet military aviation and as a careful organizer, well schooled in operations and tactical problems.

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SECURITY INFORMATION

N. I. NEDELIN

New Rank: Marshal of Artillery.

Position: Deputy Minister of Defense.

When Identified as Promoted: July 1953.

Nedelin is about 56 years old and had extensive combat experience during World War II. He is reportedly pleasant, nationalistic and patriotic, energetic and ambitious, but not politically minded.

N. G. KUZNETSOV

New Rank: Admiral of the Fleet.

Position: First Deputy Minister of Defense.

When Identified as Promoted: 2 June 1953.

Kuznetsov's dynamic personality, great ability and long experience fit him well for both governmental and command aspects of his high position. He is an individual of absolute self-assurance, decisiveness

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K. S. MOSKALENKO

New Rank: Army General.

Position: Commander, Moscow Military
District.

When Identified as Promoted: October 1953.

Born in 1900, Moskalenko has held top command positions since 1940. During World War II, he had extensive combat and command experience.

M. M. POPOV

New Rank: Army General.

Position: Commander, Tauric Military
District.

When Identified as Promoted: 7 Nov. 1953.

Born in 1896, Popov is one of the Soviet Army's Senior Generals and, since 1943, has consistently had assignments commensurate to his rank. He had extensive combat command experience during World War II.

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S. S. BIRYUSOV

New Rank: Army General.

Position: Commander, Central Group of
Forces, Austria.

When Identified as Promoted: October 1953.

Biryusov, although commander of the Third Ukrainian Front in 1944, has no outstanding military record. A life-long, devoted Communist, he held an important semi-military position in the Allied Control Commission in Bulgaria from 1945 to 1947, and in this position consistently interfered in Bulgarian internal politics.

A. A. GRECHKO

New Rank: Army General.

Position: Commander, Group of
Occupation Forces, Germany.

When Identified as Promoted: 7 Nov. 1953.

Grechko, now 50 years old, had extensive combat command experience during World War II. He was rated by German intelligence as a good tactician, brave, coarse and tactless.

M. S. MALININ

New Rank: Army General.

Position: Deputy Chief of Staff,
Ground Forces.

When Identified as Promoted: August 1953.

Malinin was Chief of Staff to
Rokossovsky during most of World War II,
and in 1945 became Chief of Staff to
Zhukov. He remained in Germany until
1948, when he returned to Moscow,
possibly as Deputy Chief of the General
Staff.